

# **Manufacturing Innovation Fund Advisory Board**

## ***January Meeting Minutes***

### **Department of Economic and Community Development**

January 10, 2017  
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM  
One Constitution Plaza  
Hartford, Connecticut

#### **Attendance**

- Board Members via phone: Don Balducci, Chris DiPentima, John Harrity, Todd Pihl Catherine Smith
- Quorum: Yes
- Stakeholders Present: Paul Striebel, Mackey Dykes, Scott Jackson
- Stakeholders via phone Bernice Zampano
- DECD Staff: Toni Karnes and Susan Chen.

#### **Minutes**

Meeting called to order by Chair Commissioner Catherine H. Smith at 9:05 am.  
Commissioner Smith welcomed the board to the meeting and introductions were made.

**Approval of December meeting minutes:** Motion to accept minutes of December 8, 2016, by John Balducci and seconded by John Harrity. Motion passed unanimously.

**MIF Meeting Schedule:** Motion to accept the proposed 2017 meeting schedule was made by John Balducci and seconded by Chris DiPentima. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Updates:**

**Marketing Plan:** Todd Pihl reviewed the 2017 Marketing work Plan. He said he met once with Adams & Knight to review the list of influencers (contact list). Jill Adams will send out the list to all board members. The group was asked please review and reply back by end of the month (1/31/2017) with names of other influencers to be added to the list.

**Energy On the Line:** Mackey Dykes of the Connecticut Green Bank provided the Board with an update the program outcomes to date. He noted while only 2 projects have closed, there was enough activity in the pipeline (26 projects) to utilize the funds awarded. Commissioner Smith mentioned progress is being made. The Green Bank goal is to close 20 projects. After some discussion, Mr. Dykes requested from the Board permission to open up funding opportunities to applicants that did not own their property. After some discussion

Commissioner Smith questioned if a vote on the matter was actually needed. She asked that staff research and get back to her.

**MIF Annual Report:** Commissioner Smith advised the Board that the annual report was submitted on time and she thanked Carmen Molina Rios and the team for a job well done.

**RFI:** Toni Karnes reported that the Request for Information was issued and posted December 16, 2016, and it appears on the DECD's web site. She also reported FAQs were posted and the RFI was sent to 48 organizations/individuals. The RFI responses are due 1/15/17.

**Financial Portfolio:** Commissioner Smith reviewed the Administrative Breakdown of the programs funded through MIF. She noted that while administrative costs were to be kept at 5%, the fund was slightly over that and it would be addressed. She responded to questions about planning and estimating administrative costs for the various workforce development programs. Commissioner Scott Jackson noted that while DOL had not taken any administrative costs to date for the Apprenticeship Program, they did anticipate doing so in the future.

**Looking Ahead:** John Harrity suggested that the Board look at the future of Connecticut manufacturing. He noted that the Board should get expertise on planning for diversification from the defense industry. Commissioner Smith noted that group could also take a look at how they are covering distressed communities along with technology innovation. After some additional discussion, Chris DiPentima proposed having another off-site strategic planning meeting in the spring.

**Other business:** Toni Karnes said February's board meeting will focus on technology and innovation, CCAT and others to present. Todd Pihl noted that a recent op-ed written by Colin Cooper in the Hartford Courant was "brilliant". The group added that they should salute him at the next meeting. Chris DiPentima shared that the op-ed actually "went viral."

After some discussion Commissioner Smith asked for a motion to adjourn. John Harrity made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Chris DiPentima seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 AM.